

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 FAA-00 EB-11

COME-00 CAB-09 DRC-01 /179 W
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O P 120910Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9872

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 20815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR HU VS

SUBJECT: GASOLINE FOR HUNGARIAN PLANE

REF: BUDAPEST 3892

1. ONCE AGAIN EMBASSY BUDAPEST HAS APPARENTLY TAKEN MFA PROTEST AT FACE VALUE AND JUMPED TO CONCLUSION IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL THAT GVN (NOT GSVN) WAS AT FAULT. GVN WAS NOT EVEN AWARE OF INCIDENT WHICH AROSE IN NORMAL COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE. FOLLOWING ARE FACTS:

2. IN PAST HUNGARIAN PLANES VISITING SAIGON REFUELED WITH SHELL LARGEST POL DISTRIBUTOR IN SOUTH VIET NAM. SHELL UNABLE TO SERVICE ROTATION FLIGHT DUE IN SAIGON DEC 16 BECAUSE OF DESTRUCTION OF SHELL STORAGE TANKS AT NHA BE DEC 3 BY COMMUNIST ATTACK IN OPEN VIOLATION OF CEASE FIRE TERMS. HUNGARIANS THEN SOUGHT TO REFUEL WITH ESSO BUT ENCOUNTERED PROBLEM BECAUSE ESSO TOO HAD LIMITED STOCKS AND HUNGARIANS HAD NO CREDIT ARRANGMENTS WITH ESSO.

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS LEARNING OF HUNGARIAN PREDICAMENT DEC 11
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TOOK MATTER UP WITH ESSO AND SUCCEEDED IN FIRING UP AN ARRANGE-

MENT WHEREBY ESSO WILL PROVIDE THE NEEDED FUEL BILLING AIR AMERICA WHICH WILL BE REIMBURSED BY THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION THROUGH THE ICCS. HUNGARIAN DELEGATION HAS NOW INFORMED BUDAPEST THAT FUEL GUARANTEED AND ROTATION MAY PROCEED.

4. THE GVN HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MATTER WAS NOT CONTACTED BY THE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION AND IN FACT WAS UNAWARE OF THE HUNGARIANS PROBLEM. SINCE HUNGARIAN DELEGATION TELLS US THEY HAVE BEEN REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS TO BUDAPEST FACTUALLY WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT MFA IN BUDAPEST ONCE AGAIN IS SEARCHING FOR AN ISSUE WITH WHICH TO TAX THE GVN AND IN DOING SO EMBROIDERED ITS ACCOUNT TO PLACE BLAME ON THE GVN.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INSTRUCT EMBASSY BUDAPEST IN REPORTING FOREGOING TO MFA TO ADD OBSERVATION THAT INABILITY OF SHELL THE COMPANY WITH WHOM THEY HAD HERETOFORE DEALT TO SUPPLY THEM WAS WHOLLY DUE TO THE ATTACK ON SHELL FACILITIES BY PRG. THIS ACTION IS IN COMPLETE CONTRAVENTION OF PRG'S CEASE FIRE OBLIGATIONS. FURTHER HUNGARIANS SO FAR HAVE REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN INVESTIGATION OF THIS VIOLATION. HUNGARIAN MFA PROTEST MIGHT MORE PROPERLY HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED HANOI WHICH OF COURSE COMPLETELY CONTROLS ITS PUPPET THE SO CALLED "PRG." IN ANY EVENT THIS INCIDENT ONCE AGAIN UNDERSCORES THE NECESSITY OF POSITIVE ACTION ON THE PART OF GGT TO BEGIN TO DISCHARGE ITS FULL RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MEMBER OF THE ICCS.
MARTIN

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